

ADE to begin implementing new, uniform data standards statewide



Superintendent of Public Instruction  
John Huppenthal



**State of Arizona  
Department of Education**

Dear Education Leader:

As you know, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has embarked on an ambitious initiative to replace the state's education data system and deliver accurate, actionable data to educators with the Arizona Education Learning and Accountability System (AELAS). With your support over the past three years, ADE has dramatically reduced annual Student Accountability Information System (SAIS) errors and increased system up time to nearly 100 percent availability. Even with these significant improvements, this vision is out of reach because of the lingering errors that waste time and drain your administrative resources. The time has come to begin implementing new, uniform data standards statewide.

The Arizona Education Data Standards (AzEDS) is a new set of standards aimed at improving data accuracy and modernizing the state reporting process. AzEDS uses the foundation of the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) coupled with the Education Fidelity (Ed-Fi) tool to create a process that meets Arizona's needs. The power of these tools allows your district or charter to upload required student-level data to ADE in a reliable, consistent format. This single change will eliminate the millions of SAIS data errors every year. Implementing AzEDS also streamlines the data collection process, reduces your time on ADE data requests and enables near real-time student data to populate the new Arizona Dashboards (AZ Dash). Additionally, ADE staff will not need to contact your schools for data we already collect because it will be in a safe, secure and accurate format.

We will be contacting your Student Information System vendors with the technical

requirements and compliance guidelines. Initial pilots must be in place by July 1, 2014 to ensure the standards are in place for the start of the 2015 school year. Please visit [www.azed.gov/aelas/azeds](http://www.azed.gov/aelas/azeds) to learn more about this effort.

We thank you in advance for your support and appreciate everything you will do to ensure every Arizona student has access to an excellent education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Huppenthal", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

John Huppenthal  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

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